

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 IOE-00 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 AID-05 OMB-01

ABF-01 OIC-02 SAJ-01 AF-06 ARA-06 NEA-10 CU-02 SS-15

NSC-05 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

CEA-01 FRB-03 CIEP-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 SAM-01 /129 W
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P R 051325Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY OSLO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1088

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 0621

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT TAGS EO AND SUBJ LINES)

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: ILO, PDRG

SUBJ: MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG ON US ILO POLICY

ROM AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

IO FOR ASST. SEC, LEWIS

PASS LABOR FOR SECRETARY AND COMMERCE FOR UNDER SECRETARY

SUMMARY: BOTH PRIME MINISTER THORN AND LABOR MINISTER

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BERG TELL ME THEY ARE COMMITTED TO KEEPING US IN ILO.

THORN OFFERED VALUABLE ADVICE ON TACTICS AND BERG, WHO WILL CHAIR EC NINE LABOR MINISTERS WHEN THEY CONSIDER ILO POLICY, SAID HE WILL WORK ACTIVELY TO SUPPORT OUR VIEWS. END SUMMARY.

1. AS WITH THE GERMANS, I EMPHASIZED TO THORN AND BERG THAT US INTERESTED IN ILO WAS AT HIGHEST LEVEL IN US GOVERNMENT AND REPRESENTED BROAD DOMESTIC CONSENSUS THAT WAS NOT LIKELY TO BE CHANGED IN NEXT TWO YEARS. I UNDERLINED THE POINT THAT WE WERE NOT PRESSURING ANYONE BUT THAT IF BASIC DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES CONTINUED TO BE COMPROMISED IN ILO AND IF WESTERN EUROPEAN ALLIES DID NOT SUPPORT US, WE PREFERRED TO GET OUT RATHER THAN CARRY ON ISOLATED FIGHTS INSIDE ILO. I LAID OUT OUR POSITION ON BIG FOUR ELECTIONS THIS YEAR, PROBLEMS OF STRUCTURE, POLITICIZATION (FOCUSING ON TIGHT PROCEDURAL RULES FOR WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE THIS JUNE) AND ON ISSUES OF DUE PROCESS AND THE DOUBLE STANDARD.

2. IN MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER THORN FEBRUARY 2, HE EXPRESSED GENERAL AGREEMENT WITH OUR POSITION BUT SOME CONCERN ABOUT OUR SERIOUSNESS AND ADVICE ON TACTICS. HE SAID WE SHOULD NOT THREATEN TO GET OUT OF ILO AND THEN BACK OFF AT THE LAST MOMENT; THIS COULD BE DONE ONLY ONCE. HE ADVISED US NOT TO PUT PRESSURE ON THE EUROPEANS BECAUSE MATTERS OF PRINCIPLE WERE AT STAKE AND THE EUROPEANS WOULD HAVE TO MAKE UP THEIR OWN MINDS AS TO HOW THESE PRINCIPLES SHOULD BE DEFENDED IN ILO. I HEARTILY AGREED. HE PARTICULARLY WARNED US NOT TO USE THE FINANCIAL LEVERAGE OF US CONTRIBUTION TO ILO (25 PERCENT) BECAUSE THE EUROPEANS WERE ALREADY SENSITIVE TO THIS. THORN FEELS UK IS THE KEY COUNTRY IN EUROPE AND THAT IF THEY COME AROUND THE FRENCH WILL FOLLOW. HE SAID THE FRENCH WOULD NOT BE MORE SUPPORTING OF THE AMERICANS THAN THE ANGLO SAXONS, AND HE ALSO MADE THE POINT THAT THE US COULD NOT COUNT ON UNDIVIDED SUPPORT FROM EUROPEAN LABOR MOVEMENT; THERE WERE ELEMENTS THERE WHO DO NOT ACCEPT THE US APPROACH TO ILO. HE ALSO TOLD US HIS LABOR MINISTER BERG WANTED TO SUPPORT THE US AND ADDED

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THAT HE (THORN) COULD NOT DO SO IN PUBLIC BECAUSE HE IS KNOWN AS A PRO-AMERICAN.

3. REACTION OF LABOR MINISTER BERG WAS ALSO SYMPATHETIC. BERG SAID ILO NOT FINANCIALLY VIABLE WITHOUT US AND IF US LEAVES, HE FELT EUROPEANS WOULD BE COMPLETELY ISOLATED AND OUTNUMBERED ON THIRD WORLD AND EE BLOC. LIKE THORN , HE POINTED OUT ELEMENTS IN EUROPEAN LABOR

MOVEMENT WHICH WOULD BE UNRESPONSIVE TO US APPROACH.
WE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL ALTERNATIVE CANDIDATES AND
TACTICS IN UPCOMING ILO ELECTIONS. BERG WILL CHAIR
EC NIME LABOR MINISTERS ON APRIL 29 WHEN THEY DISCUSS
ILO POLICY AND PREPARATIONS FOR JUNE CONFERENCE. HE
PROMISED TO HELP ORGANIZE JOINT EUROPEAN EFFORT TO
SUPPORT US. BERG WILL BE IN US IN EARLY MARCH AND
APRIL ON CU LEADER GRANT AND ASKED FOR BRIEFING ON
MY MISSION AND US ILO POLICY AT THAT TIME. BERG'S
ASSISTANT (SCHINTGEN) ASKED WHAT US WOULD DO IF THERE
WERE PARTIAL RESULTS ON ALL ISSUES RAISED BY US (PARA
2 ABOVE). I TOLD HIM ELECTIONS
AND STRUCTURE ISSUES WERE IN QUA NON FOR US; AND THAT
ALTHOUGH WE DON'T EXPECT TO WIN ALL THE TIME IN ILO THE ISSUES
WE HAD RAISED WOULD GAGE THE SUPPORT OF OUR ALLIES.
I ADDED THAT WE COULD NOT STAND BEING ISOLATED WITH-
OUT SUPPORT.

4. COMMENT: THORN'S ADVISE IS EXCELLENT. IF WE WERE
TO BLUFF ON THIS ISSUE OUR CREDIBILITY ON OTHER
MULTILATERAL QUESTIONS WOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY IMPAIRED.
REGARDING US PRESSURE I HAVE ATEMPTED TO MAKE CLEAR
THAT IF THE EUROPEANS SUPPORT THE POSITION WE ARE
ESPOUSING THEY MUST DO SO FOR THEMSELVES--NOT FOR US.
OTHERWISE IT WON'T STICK IN THE LONG RUN AND WE ARE
BETTER OFF WITHDRAWING.

SILBERMAN

BYRNE

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